FILED: ROCKLAND COUNTY CLERK 04/03/2019 03:23 PM

NYSCEF DOC. NO. 18

INDEX NO. 031783/2019
RECEIVED NYSCEF: 04/03/2019

## AFFIDAVIT of M. P.

STATE OF NEW YORK	)
	) ss:s
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND	}

M.P., having been duly sworn, hereby states and deposes under the pains and penalties of perjury:

- I am one of the plaintiffs in this matter and make this statement based on my personal knowledge.
- 2. This statement concerns my children Tr, who is nine years old and in third grade, and Te, who is seven years old and attends first grade. We are part of a family with a long history of and connection with Waldorf education. Our children have been attending Green Meadow since parent/child classes at one year old so for Tr that makes 8 years and for Te 6 years of going to this School. Since the beginning of December 2018, the children have not been able to participate and attend classes although there has not been a single case of measles in our whole community.
- 3. In order take care of my distressed children, I have not been able to work to support my family. I have been driving my children to different community members on a daily basis to sustain some social and educational activities.
- 4. The pressure to have my children vaccinated has taken its toll on my family's health. The uncertainty and the changing guidelines given by the Department of Health has not only left my children but the whole family full of

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anxiety, depression and fear. Tr and Te used to be open minded, happy and

balanced children while now they are vulnerable, cry easily, are sad and insecure.

The connection to the Waldorf community, that as a family we have experienced for

generations, has been artificially severed and leaves the children feeling abandoned.

They have become "outsiders" for reasons that are impossible for them to grasp.

5. Many of our friends have seen their children suffer and under such

pressure felt forced to vaccinate although that decision has other detrimental

consequences for them regarding their sincere beliefs.

6. As for my family, this choice between the two evils is not an option. Under

the constitution, nobody should lose their freedom and be forced to suffer this way.

7. We live our lives according to our understanding of God's will. We are

honest, kind, helpful, hardworking people. Our vegetarian diet keeps us healthy

without doing harm to other living beings. Since for us the blood is the carrier of the

soul, injections of vaccine-substances, often animal or embryo derived, are strictly

forbidden. To maintain the purity of our souls as a connection to the divine spirit is

the most important aspect of our lives. It goes against the First Amendment to force

us to go against our religious beliefs.

8. Cases of measles are supposed to have occurred in the area of our zip-code

(three feet over the zip-code border is no problem). However, the Hassidic

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community members, where the alleged cases occurred, are not close, keep to themselves and are not in contact with the Waldorf community at all.

- 9. Under these circumstances it is more than unjust to have so many families isolated from communal life and have our lives turned upside down (to put it mildly)
- 10. Besides the financial losses, I am very concerned about the mental and emotional state of my children which takes its toll on their overall well being. We need them back with their friends at school to continue their education. The children urgently require to be part again of the loving community they have been accustomed to all their life. This dark cloud, that has been unjustly hanging over us for more than three months, has to be lifted !!!

M.P.

Signed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_ day of March 2019.

**NOTARY PUBLIC** 

My commission expires:

MICHAEL HOWARD SUSSMAN Notary Public, State of New York No. 02SU6332584 Qualified in Orange County 19 Commission Expires Nov. 09, 20